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Tel: 096 31809

www.northmayogenealogy.com

Email: nmhmanager@gmail.com

Email: northmayo@gmail.com

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Feature Article **THE CENSUS IN BYGONE DAYS**

Our cover image of an RIC member with his bike from 1898 was typical of the enumerators of the time.

More on page 2.



Book of the Week

**TAKING THE BOAT –
THE IRISH IN LEEDS
1931 - 1981**

Buy online from our ebay
bookstore

€15 (+postage)

Cover image: RIC Sergeant Ballantine at Falcarragh, Co. Donegal. An original 19th C photograph of a policeman with his antique bicycle from 1898. (Image from royalirishconstabulary.com)

THE CENSUS IN BYGONE DAYS

Early Days Census

The first attempt to carry out an official census for the island of Ireland was made in 1813. The undertaking of this census was entrusted to the Grand Jury, essentially the precursors of the County Councils, in each county.

Due to inadequate resources and other pervading issues, this enumeration failed, and was duly abandoned.

The next attempt, and what was to become the first comprehensive government census of Ireland, was taken in 1821.

This census was carried out under the superintendence of the Magistrates at the Quarter Sessions (courts). Though largely successful, this, and the subsequent 1831 census, were not without their teething problems. Townland boundary queries, some enumerator remuneration issues, and even open hostility to the enumeration in some areas, led to an unsatisfactory outcome for these early censuses.

Advancements in other areas of civil administration in the 1830s would lead to the betterment of census enumeration.

Civil Advancements in 1830s

By 1841, the townland boundary issue had been largely resolved through the completion of the Ordnance Survey.

Furthermore, household return forms (Form A) were given to the heads of each household to fill out themselves rather than being the preserve of the enumerator.

Also, a reliable enumeration team from within the newly formed Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) was established.

These developments made the 1841 the most satisfactory census to-date. The census was carried out every ten years until the year 1921 - when no census was taken owing to the War of Independence.

Instructions on completing the early Census (from 1911)



The next census took place in 1926 and represents the first census undertaken by the Irish Free State. From 1946, the census was carried out every 5 years.

The loss of the 19th century census records

The demise of virtually the entirety of the early Irish census records will forever remain the greatest tragedy of Irish genealogy. There are varying factors for their loss:

The returns for **1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851** were, for the most part, destroyed in 1922 in the fire at the Public Record Office at the beginning of the Civil War.

The returns for **1861 and 1871** were intentionally destroyed by government order in 1877 after statistical information had been extracted.

Those for **1881 and 1891** were pulped during the First World War, allegedly due to a paper shortage.

A brief history of the townland of CARRICKBARRETT (*Carraic Bairéid*, rock of the conical cap or helmet).

Located in the south-east of the parish of Addergoole. Contains 206 acres, 3 roods, 24 perches*, statute measure.

Proprietor, Sir William Palmer. Agent, John Heavyside, Esq. This townland is covered with wood, the timber being sold. Its only residents are 2 wood rangers or caretakers. Fuel plenty. Big Loughanduff and Little Loughanduff are on the north boundary and Attiappleton Lough on the south-east boundary of this townland.

* There are 40 perches in a rood, and 4 roods in an acre.

Extract from Ordnance Survey Namebooks of 1838

ORGANIC GARDEN PLANT SALE 2022

9th April 2022 11 am – 3 pm

We are happy to open our garden gates this year to welcome visitors back to choose their own plants.

Mixed veg, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, courgettes, squashes, chillies, rocket, basil, sage, parsley, dill, coriander, rosemary, horseradish, strawberries, mixed flowers, fox gloves, wall flower oxeye daisy, calendula.

For a list of varieties please check out our facebook page or request a list by emailing nmhreception2018@gmail.com

Pre-order also available.

To pre-order please phone **096 31809**

from Tuesday 5th April 2022 to Thursday 7th April 2022 between 11 am – 3 pm and collect on the day of sale, Saturday 9th April 2022.

